

DEFENSE

Nuclear Stockpile Modernization Effort Would Receive Full Funding

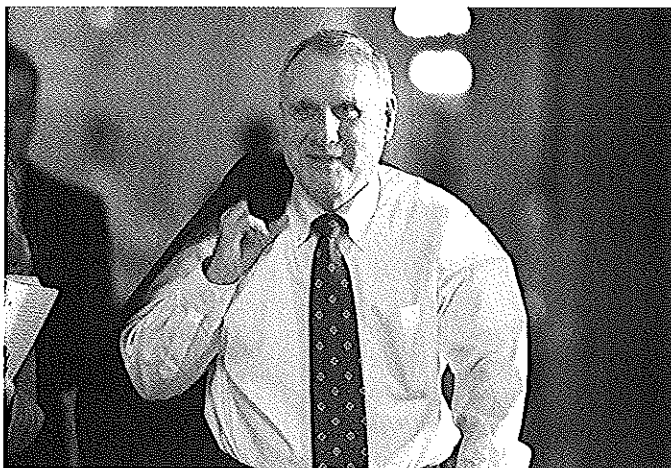
BY EMILY CADEI, CQ STAFF WRITER

A nuclear weapons modernization program that was at the center of the debate over arms control policy last year would be fully funded under the fiscal 2011 spending bill released Tuesday.

Lawmakers advocating for the program successfully beat back proposed cuts to the president's fiscal 2011 request that were in the House-passed spending bill (HR 1) and the Senate draft appropriations bill to fund the government for the rest of the year.

President Obama requested a 10 percent bump in the budget for modernization efforts as a part of effort to win support from Republican senators for a strategic arms reduction treaty with Russia, known as New START, which the Senate approved narrowly last December.

A number of lawmakers had argued that it would be too risky to reduce the U.S. nuclear weapons stockpile, as the treaty requires, unless there was a significant



Kyl, who favors the modernization program, persuaded House Republicans to reconsider the more than \$300 million they tried to cut from it.

improvement to the upkeep of the country's aging fleet of existing weapons and weapons research.

Nonproliferation Promotion

Minority Whip Jon Kyl, R-Ariz., was an advocate for the program and succeeded in convincing House Republicans to reconsider the more than \$300 million they tried to cut from the program.

The spending bill (HR 1473), which

Congress is expected to pass this week, would appropriate \$6.99 billion for weapons activities at the National Nuclear Security Agency (NNSA), the arm of the Energy Department that manages the U.S. nuclear weapons complex. That is just under the \$7 billion that the administration requested.

The measure also includes funding for NNSA programs to promote nonproliferation, although not at the level the administration requested.

Efforts to reduce the threat of nuclear weapons and nuclear attack have been at the heart of President Obama's foreign policy, and the NNSA is at the front lines of that endeavor with its programs to detect, secure and eliminate nuclear weapons overseas.

The compromise bill would appropriate \$2.3 billion for the agency's nuclear nonproliferation programs, an increase of \$195 million — or 9 percent — over fiscal 2010 funding levels, but \$361 million less than the president's fiscal 2011 request. ♦

TECHNOLOGY & COMMUNICATIONS

Technology Sector, House Republicans Wary of Kerry's Online Privacy Measure

BY KEITH PERINE, CQ STAFF WRITER

Massachusetts Democrat John Kerry has jump-started the Senate debate over whether Congress should enact a comprehensive online privacy law by introducing legislation aimed at protecting data both online and offline.

Kerry spent months drafting his bill, with an eye toward striking a balance between privacy advocates and the private sector. Arizona Republican John McCain is co-sponsoring the bill.

Kerry, the chairman of the relevant Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation subcommittee, said he and McCain introduced the legislation "to put Americans back in control of how their personal information is collected and used."

But Kerry and McCain will have two big issues to address before any bill goes to President Obama.

Despite some private sector support for

the proposal, there is still a natural antipathy in the technology sector to any statutory curbs on the lucrative practice of collating and disseminating personal data.

Even if Kerry and McCain can get their bill through the Senate, House Republicans have shown little appetite for sweeping privacy legislation.

California Republican Mary Bono Mack, chairwoman of the relevant House Energy and Commerce subcommittee, has signaled that she intends to move more slowly.

"It would be very easy for me to draft a piece of legislation today, introduce it, and hold hearings on my ideas," Bono Mack said in video remarks delivered on April 11 to a digital advertising conference in San Francisco. "It would also be inconsiderate of me to skip the debate to determine what exactly the issues are, what in fact the alleged or potential harm is and

what policymakers can do about it — if anything."

Bill's Provisions

Kerry's bill would apply to any entity — online or offline — that collects and uses data on more than 5,000 people in any given year. It would require those entities to provide clear notices about their data collection practices.

The bill would allow individuals to "opt-out" of collection of their data, and would require that individuals give an affirmative "opt-in" consent to the collection of sensitive personal information.

Under the measure, consumers would be allowed to "opt-out" of data collection that is transferred to third parties for behavioral advertising — such as tailoring online ads to a Web user's browsing habits.

Among the provisions designed to garner

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